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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 3. Political and General Assembly affairs and secretariat services

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the title and relevant parts of the narrative of programme 3, Political and General Assembly affairs and secretariat services, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions do not reflect a fundamental change in the mandate of the programme; they instead

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

respond to the organizational changes arising from the restructuring of the Secretariat.

4. The following text modifies the title of programme 3 and paragraphs 3.1 to 3.15, 3.19 and 3.20 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Programme

5. It is proposed to revise the title of programme 3 to read: "GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS".

1. General orientation

Paragraph 3.1

Replace paragraph 3.1 with the following:

"The primary purpose of this programme is to provide adequate support services for the General Assembly, a principal organ of the United Nations, and related political analysis and advice to the Secretary-General. The basic mandate for the programme is thus the Charter of the United Nations. Discharge of these functions means that the responsible official, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, is also well placed to perform certain other political functions assigned to him by the Secretary-General."

Paragraph 3.2

Replace the first sentence with the following: "As the agenda of the General Assembly has grown since the establishment of the Organization, so has the task of providing services to this principal organ."

At the end of the last sentence, delete "and the Council".

2. Overall strategy

Paragraph 3.3

Replace paragraph 3.3 with the following:

"Activities under this programme will be carried out by the Department of Political Affairs. As a result of the restructuring of the Secretariat, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, which was formerly responsible for these activities, was incorporated into the new Department. The functions of that office relating to the technical servicing of meetings in the economic and social fields were transferred to the Department of Economic and Social Development. A description of the functions of the Department will be contained in the Organizational Manual of the Secretariat (ST/SGB/Organization) to reflect the changes."

Paragraph 3.4 — Replace paragraph 3.4 with the following:

"In carrying out its functions, the Department will plan and help to organize meetings of the General Assembly; provide secretariat services; ensure coordination of the work of the Secretariat in their support; provide editorial services for documentation submitted to and by them; and follow up on implementation of resolutions adopted. Political functions will involve preparation of analyses, provision of advice and coordination of specified activities."

Paragraph 3.5 — Replace paragraph 3.5 with the following:

"In relation to its servicing activities, the Department will ensure effective coordination with many offices, notably the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, including the Protocol and Liaison Service, and the Office of Conference Services. Its editorial functions require cooperation with a wide range of author departments, as well as with permanent missions and permanent observer missions, as does effective follow-up of resolutions adopted."

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

Paragraph 3.6 — Replace paragraph 3.6 with the following:

"The programme on General Assembly Affairs will consist of one subprogramme, entitled, 'General Assembly Affairs'."

Paragraph 3.7 — Replace paragraph 3.7 with the following:

"No priority designation is made since this programme has only one subprogramme."

B. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME 1. POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Delete subprogramme 1 (titles and paras. 3.8-3.15) and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS

Title and number of subprogramme — The title of the subprogramme does not change but no numbering is assigned since it is proposed that the programme have only one subprogramme.

Paragraph 3.19 (new para. 3.11) — Revise the first sentence to read: "This subprogramme would aim to ensure adequate secretariat and support services to the General Assembly and its General Committee."

Paragraph 3.20 (new para. 3.12) — Replace the introductory phrase of paragraph 3.20 with the following: "In implementing this subprogramme, the Department of Political Affairs will:"

SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS AND SECRETARIAT SERVICES

Delete "Subprogramme 3. Economic and Social Council affairs and secretariat services".